

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23191 101617Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, FR

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION - GEORGE BROWN ET AL

REF: (A) PARIS 22629, (B) PARIS 20395

1. CONGEN CALLED ON ALAIN SIMON, DIRECTEUR DE CABINET AND NUMBER TWO OFFICER IN JUSTICE MINISTRY, AUGUST 9 TO REVIEW BROWN ET AL. CASE AS SUGGESTED (REFTEL B) TO AMBASSADOR BY MINISTER LECANUET WHO INCIDENTALLY HAD JUST RECENTLY SENT AMBASSADOR A LETTER REFERRING TO THEIR CONVERSATION AT ROUEN ON JULY 12 AND PROVIDING SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS OF CASE (BUT NO NEW INFORMATION).

2. CONGEN EXPLAINED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SURPRESSING HIJACKING, POINTING OUT THAT EXTRADITION IS MUCH BETTER DETERRENT TO HIJACKING THAN IS TRIAL IN COUNTRY WHERE HIJACKERS ARE FOUND. HE STRESSED THAT HIJACKERS HAD ACTED FOR MONETARY GAIN AND THAT NONE OF HIJACKERS HAS RECORD OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE BASIS FOR DEFENSE PLEA OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT TWO OF THE HIJACKERS WERE FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE, BEING ESCAPED CONVICTS, AND ONE AN ARMY DESERTER. CONGEN ALSO MENTIONED US DISAPPOINTMENT IN OUTCOME OF KERKOW/HOLDER CASE AND CITED DIFFERING US-FRENCH POSITIONS ON ROLE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WHICH LEFT US GOVERNMENT AT DISADVANTAGE IN THAT US ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTIVELY REPRESENTED FRENCH SIDE IN EXTRADITION

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PAGE 02 PARIS 23191 101617Z

CASE WHILE FRENCH AVOCAT GENERAL HAD UNCOMMITTED ROLE,

AND IN HOLDER CASE EVEN WENT SO FAR AT TO RECOMMEND AGAINST EXTRADITION. FINALLY, CONGEN PASSED SIMON COPY OF KURZ SUMMARY (REFTEL B) OF HIJACKING EVENTS.

2. SIMON SYMPATHIZED WITH US POSITION ON ROLE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THIS CASE. HE COMMENTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTRY WAS FULLY "SENSITIZED" TO CASE AND WOULD FOLLOW IT CLOSELY. HE THANKED CONGEN FOR SUMMARY OF CASE, CAREFULLY NOTED SEPTEMBER 20 DATE OF EXTRADITION HEARING AND SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS CASE WITH BACRO (ENTRAIDE REPRESSIVE INTERNATIONALE). EARLIER IN CONVERSATION, CONGEN HAD SPOKEN APPRECIATIVELY OF EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE RENDERED EMBASSY IN EXTRADITION CASES BY BOTH FROMONT (WHO HAS JUST BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PARIS SUBURB OF CRETEIL AS JUDGE) AND BACRO.

3. CONGEN CAME AWAY FROM MEETING PERSUADED THAT MINISTRY, FROM THE TOP LEVEL DOWN, WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWERS TO ASSURE FAVORABLE DECISION IN THIS CASE.
GAMMON

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